

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A remote data viewing system for use in a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant, the remote data viewing system comprising:
 - a primary data collection platform adapted to collect the entity data pertaining to the one or more different entities within the process plant from the data source applications;
 - a database adapted to store the entity data pertaining to the one or more different entities within the process plant collected by the primary data collection platform;
 - a web server coupled to the primary data collection platform and adapted to provide remote access to the entity data stored in the database at one or more remote platforms; and
 - a display application stored on a computer readable memory and adapted to be executed on a processor within one of the one or more remote platforms to create a display for the entity data, the display including a navigational tree having a plurality of sections specifying different categories of entity data in the database and a display view, wherein the display application enables a user to select the different ones of the sections of the navigational tree to specify different entity data to be displayed and presents the entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in a predetermined viewing format.
2. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined viewing format organizes the entity data based on device tags associated with the entity data.
3. The remote data viewing system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a display of audit trail data associated with the device tags.
4. The remote data viewing system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a display of configuration data associated with the device tags.

5. The remote data viewing system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a display of calibration data associated with the device tags.

6. The remote data viewing system of claim 5, wherein the calibration data includes a result of at least one calibration procedure.

7. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying one or more plant locations associated with the entity data within the process plant.

8. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying one or more physical networks associated with the entity data within the process plant.

9. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying alerts associated with the entity data within the process plant.

10. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying calibration entities associated with the entity data within the process plant.

11. The remote data viewing system of claim 10, wherein the calibration entities include at least one calibration route defined within the process plant.

12. The remote data viewing system of claim 10, wherein the calibration entities include calibration schedule information for at least one device within the process plant.

13. The remote data viewing system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a search engine that enables searching for calibration schedule data based on a priority of a calibration procedure.

14. The remote data viewing system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a search engine enabling searching for calibration schedule data based on a time or date associated with a calibration procedure.

15. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying user defined favorite data associated with the entity data within the process plant.

16. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying audit trail events associated with the entity data within the process plant.

17. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying device tags associated with the entity data within the process plant.

18. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, further including an alert polling application which polls one or more devices within the process plant for alert information and which sends the alert information to the remote platform for presentation via the predetermined viewing format.

19. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the web server includes a first application that acquires the entity data from the primary data collection platform as XML data and includes a second application that places the XML data into a web page using the predefined viewing format.

20. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, further including a search engine that searches entity data in the database and presents the entity data located in the search according to the predetermined viewing format.

21. The remote data viewing system of claim 20, wherein the search engine includes a display field having search fields specifying parameters associated with the entity data.

22. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the web server includes an application that acquires event data from the primary data collection platform in response to a request from one of the remote platforms, places the acquired event data into a web page using the predetermined viewing format and sends the web page to the one of the remote platforms.

23. The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes multiple sections, wherein each of the multiple sections specifies a different category of entity data and wherein each of the multiple sections includes one or more associated predetermined viewing formats used to view the entity data when selected by a user.

24. A method of viewing entity data generated in a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant, the method comprising:

collecting the entity data pertaining to the one or more entities within the process plant at a primary data collection platform;

storing the collected entity data in a database associated with the primary data collection platform;

accessing the database from a remote site geographically separated from the primary data collection platform to obtain at least a portion of the entity data stored in the database;

displaying a navigational tree at the remote site, the navigational tree including a plurality of sections specifying categories of the entity data in the database; and

displaying a display view at the remote site in conjunction with the navigational tree, wherein the display view presents entity data in a predetermined viewing format in response to a selection of one of the sections of the navigational tree.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the database includes using a web server located at a second site geographically separated from the remote site to access the entity data stored in the database, placing the accessed entity data into a web page in the predetermined viewing format at the web server and sending the web page to the remote site.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the second site is geographically separated from the primary data collection platform.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on one or more plant locations within the process plant.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the display view at the remote site includes presenting entity data in a predetermined viewing format that organizes the entity data based on device tags in response to a selection of a section of the navigational tree.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the entity data includes audit trail data associated with the device tags.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the entity data includes configuration data associated with the device tags.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the entity data includes calibration data associated with the device tags.

32. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on one or more physical networks associated with the process plant.

33. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on alerts generated within the process plant.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a section associated with active alerts and wherein displaying the display view includes presenting active alert entity data in a predetermined viewing format in response to a selection of the section associated with the active alerts.

35. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section associated with polling for alerts generated within the process plant, further including initiating an alert polling application that polls for alerts within the process plant in response to a selection of the first section of the navigational tree and wherein displaying the display view includes presenting alert data obtained by the alert polling application in a predetermined viewing format in response to the selection of the first section of the navigational tree.

36. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on calibration events within the process plant.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the calibration events include at least one calibration route defined within the process plant.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the calibration events include at least one calibration schedule defined within the process plant.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein displaying the display view includes providing a search engine enabling searching for calibration schedule data based on a priority of a calibration procedure.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein displaying the display view includes providing a search engine enabling searching for calibration schedule data based on a time or a date associated with a calibration procedure.

41. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree associated with audit trail entity data.

42. The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree associated with entity data organized by device tags.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein displaying the first section of the navigational tree includes one or more sub-sections associated with device tags organized by one or more of all devices, assigned devices, spare devices and decommissioned devices.

44. The method of claim 24, further including presenting a search engine view at the remote site to enable a user at the remote site to search the entity data in the database and to present the entity data located in a search according to the predetermined viewing format.